

# **SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY CHILDREN'S NETWORK CBO PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**

## **HIGH DESERT PARTNERSHIP FOR KIDS**

### **MISSION/PURPOSE**

The High Desert Partnership for Kids is a child-focused consortium, committed to sharing collective knowledge and resources to promote the well being of children in the High Desert.

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**June 9, 2003**

#### **In Attendance:**

Katherine Anderson, High Desert Community	(760) 242-8005
Carol Ardrey, Loving Lamb Ministries	(760) 887-4024
Cynthia Baker, Oasis Bonding Center	(760) 256-9530
Virginia Barron, SBCSS – State Preschool	(760) 244-6131X217
Claire Burrus, A Better Way Domestic Violence	(760) 955-8010
Dianne Madden, A Better Way Domestic Violence	(760) 955-8010
Socorro Castanon, VVCSC	(760) 943-9646
Barbara Cook, SB Sexual Assault Services	(909) 885-8884
Zabelle Crosson, Independent Grant Writer	(760) 985-4535
Pastor Charlotte Fields, ROLCC	(760) 961-0685
Michelle Gaona, Catholic Charities	(760) 242-2311X8454
Michele Girard, Public Health PALS	(760) 956-4414
Debra Guzman, Desert Mountain FICS	(760) 245-4695
Stacy Iverson, First 5 San Bernardino	(909) 386-7706
Carmen Laird, Community Tool Box	(760) 246-7874
Frances Mills, DCS/CPS	(760) 243-6761
Vici Nagel, HD Community Coalitions	(760) 949-2930
Cheryl Norton, St. John of God Health Care	(760) 241-4917
Melanie Regalado, AVUSD Preschool Family Center	(760) 247-2052X205
Marilea Reese, High Desert Homeless Services	(760) 245-5991
Rosemary Rubalcava, Whispering 4 Winds Intertribal	(760) 961-2181
Cathy Smith, ACYFS	(760) 247-7930
Valerie Smith, Yucca Loma Family Center	(760) 240-5606
Pamela Thompson, Loving Lamb Ministries	(760) 887-4002
Julian Weaver, SBCSS	(909) 386-2902
Gayla Weriebor	<a href="mailto:theyesii@yahoo.com">theyesii@yahoo.com</a>
Bethany Ball, FFA – Alliance Human Services	(909) 477-4147
Susan Laich, FFA – Alliance Human Services	(909) 477-4147
Denise McGuire, Head Start	(760) 241-8572

Maurine White, Oasis Bonding Center	(760) 256-9530
Tom Hurtado, San Bernardino Probation	(760) 247-7206X164
Judy Morris, Moses House Ministries	(760) 948-4104
Douglas Riley, Catholic Charities	(760) 246-8414
Denise Nunez, Catholic Charities	(760) 246-8414
Mia Hardin, Inspirational Visions	(760) 947-3317
Desa Johnson-Waller, Johnson Family Day Care	(760) 947-7889
Kristine Nolan, Sara's Hope Foundation	(760) 246-3524

## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Mary welcomed everyone and self-introductions were made. Mary welcomed the presenter Sue Taylor, Children's Network.

## **2. Additions/Deletions to Agenda**

No additions or deletions were noted.

## **3. Approval of May Minutes**

No corrections or handouts were noted.

## **4. Safe Kids Summer – Sue Taylor**

Mary introduced Sue Taylor the Child Abuse Prevention Coordinator from Children's Network. She will tell you about the materials available this summer for kids. If someone has an event this week and you need items, go away and take the items today.

Highlights from Sue Taylor's presentation:

She has been to this group before for the Child Abuse campaign in April, which ended the last day of April. The first day of May started the Safe Summer campaign. There are two focuses in the campaign driven by the Child Death Review team. The focus is on water safety/drowning prevention and leaving kids unattended in cars. Every summer there is too many instances where people are leaving their children in cars by accidents. This year have already had a couple of drowning accidents. She brought materials and they are on the counter for everyone to take. On water safety is a bright green brochure put together by the County Fire Department about staying cool this summer, drowning facts, home hazards, check lists, things in the bathroom, etc. Kids can actually drown in one inch of water, bathtubs, pools, and bodies of water. A Drowning Prevention Network was formed in San Bernardino County last year and they are just celebrating their first anniversary. Some data has been put together. It is amazing how many adults when finding a child in trouble forget to call 911, and that is a key issue.

It was mentioned that just because you give your children swimming lessons, they still need an adult with them and to be supervised. Swimming lessons are not the cure all, but they are good. The Sheriff's Dept. also put together the blue brochure. Samples were brought for everyone, if you need more materials give her call. On water safety, Derrick Dolphin came from the Apple Valley Fire Department. The Drowning Prevention Network is made up of County agencies, Community agencies, and first responders. Apple Valley came to a meeting and had the Derrick the Dolphin concept. The Drowning Prevention Network adopted Derrick the Dolphin as their mascot. Almost all of the materials have English on one side and Spanish on the back, so you only have to take one sheet of paper for distribution purposes. From National Safe Kids is the water safety checklist give hints on safety issues. Another issue to keep in mind is adults need to learn CPR. The favorite piece that is used at health and safety fairs is the water watcher Tag. Last year was a huge success and probably made around 5,000 of them last Year. If you plan to have booth somewhere, it is really good – (cut the square Out, punch a whole, tie a piece of yarn through it, spread them out on a table and Dump a box of crayons and the kids come running. The child draws a picture on The back and it belongs to them. It is their very own water watcher tag. You Then instruct them that whenever they go in or around water to give the tag to a Responsible adult that knows how to swim. That adult is then designated as a Water watcher. The kids are given permission to nag the adult similar to the seat Belt theory. If you are going to be a water watcher that is all you do, can't go Answer the door, telephone, get a sandwich, etc. If the adult has to leave, you Pass the water watcher tag to another adult or you take the child out of the water. As children are drawing and staying busy, then take the opportunity to explain to the parents and what the purpose of the water watcher tag is. The issue of leaving children in cars, General Motors puts out a brochure. She has available about 10,000 of them, so if you need a bunch let her know. It is about 20 or 30 degrees hotter inside a car then outside. 4 R Kids Sake was developed because Baby Kaitlynn, 6 months old was left last summer in the babysitters' van for 3 hours and died. The mother and grandmother have passed on diligently this information and are responsible for the law, so you do get a fine. Safe Kids Coalition is a National Coalition that focuses on all different safety issues for Children. The Inland Empire Safe Kids Coalition is stationed at the Loma Linda University Hospital. There is a couple of items by them, a checklist for kids. The wheel safe is becoming a issue, most kids do know they must where a Helmet when they bike, what about scooters, skateboards and anything with Wheels? There are adult and child versions. There is a big packet of all the masters With most of the things see you see today. You are welcome to make as many copies as you like and put your logo on anything you want. Don't take off the Safe Kids or Derrick the Dolphin, but you can cut and paste your own logo. If You Take a packet of masters and do make copies, by the end of the campaign, September 1<sup>st</sup> fill out the cover sheet and send it back to her to let her know. From that information she compiles a report on how far out the information went and identify gaps where to go next year.

Also it will measure how many Pieces of paper go into the publics' hands, whether it is adults or children. The final point is there is only 2 in the office that do the Safe Kids Summer Campaign and they can't get to every event, so what is done is they enlist your help. So when you sign in on the sign in sheet here, and they know of an activity in your area, they will e-mail you or call you to see if you are going to the event anyway. Then you will be asked if you don't mind to distribute the Safe Kids Summer campaign. Sue does care packages everyday through the mail. It is good for schools, PTA, schools, health and safety fairs, churches, boy scouts, girl scouts and anything where children or parents will be. Sue maintains an event calendar, and right now there is about 85 events that have already been identified and attended, all through September. They work on a grant and must report if reach the whole entire county, so by having a master events calendar will tell where we have been. Every year at the beginning of April or March, Sue and Susan Melanson make a trek out to Needles and take as much items as can, because at the river station they have lots of water safety issues. Some areas are forgotten in the high desert so it is very helpful for you to help get the information out. Really can't measure what is done or how many lives saved, but do think there is an impact on the children's' lives. The drowning deaths have decreased dramatically possibly due to getting the information out to the public. Last year there were 7 and years before that it were usually 14 or 15 a year. Sue can be reached at (909) 387-8966 for any event you need materials. More items have been ordered and will be in this Friday. Will be getting sunglasses, swirley straws, boxes of 4 crayons to use with the water watcher tags or color books, plastic cups, etc. If don't have a budget to copy, we can do it. Any questions?

## **5. Handouts and Round Table Discussion**

√Mary Jaquish of the CBO Partnership/Children's Network reported: Next month will be meeting at Anthony Chambers' place – High Desert Youth and Family Resource Center, 15411 Village Drive, Victorville, since our normal room was not available in July. You can find the address on the bottom of your agenda. It is located in the old Goodwill building. At the meeting will be doing a tour of his place, so that will be fun. A flyer was distributed to everyone and a save the date card for the Children's Network Annual Conference on September 18<sup>th</sup> and Jennifer Celise-Reyes is in charge, you can call her at (909) 387-8966. The conference focus has changed to a focus on the Redesign of the Child Welfare System. If you are involved with children and families, so it is really important to be there. Mary put out some funding information. There are a couple of packets, not copies made for everyone. You can sign up for them and copies will be mailed to you. Kids Count data book is on-line from 2002, which is a custom database that lets you print graphs, maps, and state by state profiles and ranking lists – very good for grants. The ranking is allowed by all 50 states according to the indicators they use.

The whole data book is on-line. For some of you attended the Mentoring workshop down the hill, there were some terrific workshops. Mary brought a sample from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) data book on-line. If you are dealing with kids, there are all kinds of programs, best practices and strategies to look at. Go to the CDC web site. Mary did order the publications on-line, but she has not received them yet. There must be about 40 different categories of data information from domestic violence, child abuse, best practices, strategies, program ideas, etc. from the CDC. You can order to go straight to your front door. Next month hopefully will have most of those applications here and you can go through them and decide which ones you want to order. Your first copy is free. There is some information on budget web sites that make sense in the packet also. The Annie E. Casey Foundation has a newsletter out and it talks about what they will be funding this month. There is a Latino Children and African-American Children Pocket Guides available, which deal with economic, educational, and social well being for minority children. That highlights gaps between minority kids and non-Hispanic White children in the U.S. The County Child Care Coordinator, Anthony Rubio on the Children's Network web site [www.co.san-bernardino.ca.us/childnet](http://www.co.san-bernardino.ca.us/childnet) has a survey of all the juvenile hall kids that were asked questions such as: are you only being raised by your mother, father or step-parent, foster-parent, or group home, grandparents, or other relatives. There was 32% of the kids in the juvenile system were being raised by their mother only. The second highest was being raised in a foster home or group home. Lots of good information in the survey. Most of the kids in the juvenile system, the county of origin was 25% from Los Angeles County. Age at first drug use – 11 to 15, 70% of the kids. Go to the Children's Network website and get it from the Child Care Coordinator Link, asked Tammy for hard copies to hand out at the next meeting if you can't download it. VaNessa Vollmer, who is the child psychologist at the Department of Behavioral Health, actually did the interviews at the juvenile hall. The EMT Training is coming up soon in the desert, but she does not have all the particulars. If you are doing a Mentoring Program or interested in it, want to know the basics and get free training. It is very important, to hear the training and gain the knowledge.

√Sue Taylor of Children's Network reported: The conference is the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Network Conference. They were approached by the Department of Children's Services because they have a need to have a conference that focuses just on redesigning the Child Welfare System. So it will be a conference within a conference, because Children's Network was already well on the way to being planned for September 18<sup>th</sup>. Cathy Cimbalo asked to add onto the conference, so if you come to it and you need that information in the afternoon. You would register for the morning sessions and then go to the plenary in the afternoon. At the plenary you will get a pretty good overview. There will be somebody there from the State to give you an overview of what the new system will look like. If you do not need to go to that, there are still many workshops to pick from.

√Douglas Riley of Catholic Charities reported: They are planning an event on July 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> at the Mavericks stadium, the kids will get t-shirts, baseballs, etc.

Last year were very successful. Kids from Apple Valley and Hesperia can come, just call and they will be put on the list. The parents are welcome and will receive a t-shirt and baseball, pictures signed by players. Two players from the Dodgers will be there. Very nice day for the children. He can be reached at (760) 246-8414. He will send you information or e-mail to Mary.

√Denise Nunez of Catholic Charities reported: They have no funding this time, but are taking applications this time for the HEAP program. The HEAP program is energy assistance through the Community Services Department. Everyone in the community is eligible to apply once a year. The annual income is a factor; most families are eligible who are on a limited income.

√Julian Weaver of SBCSS reported: Heads up on the Healthy Start Program looks like the budget is being restored. There might be some good opportunities for some of you to partner.

√Kristina Nolan of Sara's Hope Foundation reported: Her daughter was killed 6 months ago by not wearing a seatbelt. Kristina has started a non-profit and has given 5 scholarships.

√Bethany Rall, FFA of Alliance Human Services reported: They provide treatment and foster care for developmental disabled children in a group home. They serve the entire Inland Empire including Riverside and San Bernardino County.

√Katherine Anderson of the High Desert Community reported: They work with the HEAP in Apple Valley, which provides gas, electricity, propane, and weatherization program. They can replace refrigerators and update cooling systems and thermostats. They can be reached at (760) 242-8005.

√Melanie Regalado of the AVUSD Preschool Family Center reported: They just finished the Parenting Workshops on Wednesday mornings with participation from 150 families. Some of the parents were court-mandated. The course is 3 weeks. There is no cost. The workshops start again in September. Grandparents and kin caregivers are welcomed. They plan to offer twice a year. The focus is 0 to 2 and different ages with different speakers. They offer the workshops in the evening from 6 to 8 p.m. for the single working mothers. Sometimes they offer classes on Saturdays as well.

√Virginia Barron of the SBCSS – State Preschool reported: They are in the process of closing out the year.

√Cynthia Baker, Director of the Oasis Bonding Center reported: They are located in Barstow. They are currently in negotiations with the First 5 Commission to get their contract and services renewed. They are very positive their contract will be renewed. They mentioned you need to be there for the meeting on June 18<sup>th</sup> and will be helpful to put a plug in. They have a full house facility. Women come to the Center and stay for 10 days for all types of training in becoming a mother, bonding with their children. Criteria to coming into the program are you must have a baby 0 to 2 months old. They are proposing you can bring another child that is 0 to 5 as well. They provide the following services: nutritionist, mental health therapist, physical therapist and all the possible areas of life are covered during the 10 days. If the mother has a significant other they also provide relationship help through the mental health therapist. They pretty much cover everything, have a beautiful facility. You only attend classes and have childcare available. The nurses do a lot of one-on-one with the mother to recognize signs and symptoms of illness. They did not meet their numbers, did the best they could in a few short months. There is a major need and is critical for the whole county. They can serve comfortably up to 10 women and their children. They do offer transportation and can pick up from Hesperia. Transportation is not an issue even for doctor appointments. They were taking pregnant women and have an OB/GYN they work closely with. The services are totally free. Phone number is (760) 256-9530. The sessions are offered twice a month. Calendars are available for the class schedules.

√Cheryl Norton of St. John of God Health Care reported: They have 6 grants. On July 15, 2003 they have 6 graduating students. Fifty women a year come through their center with children 0 to 5 years old. On June 11<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. they will be having their Red Ribbon Planning meeting for October at the Comfort Suites. She can be reached at (760) 241-4917 X24.

√Socorro Castanon of VVCSC reported: The Healthy Families grant they had died. In 2 weeks she will be gone, has a resume and is looking for work.

√Vici Nagel of High Desert Community Coalitions reported: She did a pitch for Moses House – parenting program that starts a class on July 7<sup>th</sup> – flyers in the back. There was some discussion about their new playhouse. She referred everyone to a flyer on the High Desert Community Coalitions that lists their programs and services as an overview. They have been doing workshops – the purple flyer is the next one. It is a free workshop, “Recruiting and keeping Volunteers” right after this meeting on July 14<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. They are going to test it out and have a few workshops right after the High Desert Partnership for Kids meeting. They plan to develop eventually a full non-profit resource center in the desert. The closest one to them is in Riverside and San Bernardino County. They have a Funders Forum coming up. They are trying to be a hub because there is no one place to know who is doing what. They are sending out e-mails and are developing a web site with various links. They are developing a bank of local needs assessments with data for grants that you can all use.

If you completed a needs assessment, please share it with them. They are trying to be a conduit of information and share information – their current list is 130 agencies, but know there are at least 600 in the desert. Give her your e-mail address and she will share your information. Last year in conjunction with the County Homeless Coalition they coordinated the High Desert Homeless Care Fare. They have been doing it for many years. A committee is meeting now to get that together again. If you would like to be involved the next meeting is this Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. at the Barstow Hospital. It would be if you serve homeless families such as shelters, schools, etc.

√Tom Hurtado of San Bernardino County Probation reported: He came today to network and gather information.

√Cathy Smith of ACYFS reported: They are a non-profit group home. Their program director is Kathy Lewis. They will be continuing their food distribution free to anyone on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Verification of income will be necessary. They can be reached at (760) 247-7930. They are upgrading their facility now and if you can donate furniture or appliances, please contact us.

√Michele Girard of Public Health, PALS reported: The Truancy program closed, so she is now working the pregnant and parenting teens. Many of those teens have siblings so they are looking for funding to work with the siblings. There is a grant down the hill where they take them on field trips and do all kinds of workshops. Trying to work on it for the desert as well.

√Carmen Laird, Community Tool Box reported: The youth groups are getting ready for summer programs for kids. They were able to receive some WIA funding this year.

√Barbara Cook of the San Bernardino Sexual Assault Services reported: Acquainted rape is most unreported abuse/crime. Cyclical abuse happens as well. The counseling is free. They are getting some cuts in their budgets. Problems often start with abuse and are a vicious cycle. The parent needs to be very aware that any member of the family can rape the child. They have training and offer counseling. The number for the main office is (909) 885-8884. They have 4 offices; Yucaipa, Fontana, Redlands and Victorville.

√Pamela Thompson of Loving Lamb Ministries reported: They serve those individuals that assist those suffering from mental and emotional abuse due to ritualistic abuse. They have a fundraiser on July 5<sup>th</sup> at the AutoZone as car wash.

√Stacy Iverson of First 5 San Bernardino reported: They are busy working on the assessment of needs for the children of San Bernardino County. Some activities they are involved in are: Parent Survey, Key informant Interviews, Focus Groups, and Community Forums.



Also, in July they will be launching the Healthy Kids 0 to 18 health insurance. The Healthy Kids will not have a monthly premium, but will have an initial fee of \$20.

√Debra Guzman of the Desert Mountain FICS reported: They provide support to parents with mental health problems by providing in-home counseling. One of their goals is to keep children out of the hospital and with their families. Deborah can be reached at (760) 245-4695.

√Rosemary Rubalcava of the Whispering 4 Winds Intertribal reported: They are having a Family Gathering of Drummers from Canada on September 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. It will be a community event. Admission is \$1 for adults and kids need to bring one can of food. There will be free booths to distribute information. Vendors can have booths for a fee. For more information, contact them at (760) 247-9696.

Meeting adjourned.

**6. Next Meeting Date:**

The next meeting will be held on Monday, July 14, 2003 at 9:00 a.m. at the High Desert Youth and Family Resource Center, 15411 Village Drive, Victorville.

Respectfully submitted,

TAMMY WILLIAMS, Recording Secretary  
Children's Network

/tgw